

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 15, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Anne Wall, Mr. Jay Frye, Mr. Jim Hicks, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. R. Max Peterson, Ms. Kathleen Pritchard, and Mr. Bob Zoldos. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the October 18, 1999 meeting were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Banks reminded the Commission of the past budget that was included in the packet. The Commission then discussed what was in the past budget. Mr. Banks would like to present a proposed Tree Commission budget to the Director of Planning and Zoning by December/January 1999/2000. Mr. Zoldos brought up the planting of the Kousa dogwoods in the Town, and that the Commission may want to budget more for the future maintenance of these trees. Mr. Zoldos then said that perhaps these funds should be from Public Works instead of the Tree Commission's Budget. Mr. Peterson would like the Tree Commission to mention to Council that funds from somewhere need to be set aside for tree maintenance. Mr. Frye asked if there was a past history of specific amounts budgeted for tree maintenance. Mr. Banks answered that, yes, there are specific amounts budgeted for tree maintenance, but he does not know the amounts. Tree maintenance falls under two departments: Parks and Recreation (for trees in parks) and Public Works (for street trees). Mr. Banks has not been advised as far as what amounts are allotted for each department. Mr. Zoldos said that he would speak with Paul York to see what amounts are allowed for each Department and get back to the Tree Commission.

Mr. Banks informed the Commissioners that the Tree Inventory would probably be finished up by the end of this week. ACRT will put the software package together and have it to Mr. Banks by the end of this month.

Mr. Zoldos then mentioned to the Tree Commission that they might want to undertake some project in addition to what they've done in the past.

Mr. Hicks asked about the arboretum project. Mr. Banks told the Commission that he has spoken to the Parks and Recreation Department and in his preliminary talks with them he has asked that some consideration be made to include a grouping of a dozen or so of the small trees in their master plan for the various parks around the Town. Mr. Banks suggested that these trees be identified with their names, height and spread, and a brochure available with more information about the trees. The Commission and Mr. Banks would still like to have one central location for the Arboretum, if a place becomes available.

Ms. Pritchard added, that the Commission should include in the budget what it will cost to build an arboretum. From what Ms. Pritchard had read, this year is a very good year for the Town financially.

Ms. Pritchard would like for the Tree Commission to push for a more centralized tree management program during this next year. Mr. Peterson volunteered to work on a memo with Mr. Banks to that affect .

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zoldos stated that the Town council usually meets with the Virginia Legislative representatives in early December and if there is any new legislation that the Commissioners would like to see brought up, please get this information to him or Mr. Noe within the next 3-4 weeks.

Mr. Hower would like to remind the Commissioners that in the months of January and February 2000 the Tree Commission Meetings would be held on the 4th Monday of those months. (January 24th and February 28th).

Mr. Groothuis asked for a motion to amend the meetings dates in January and February. Mr. Hower made the motion, seconded by Ms. Wall and the motion passed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Wall distributed 2,300 "2000 by 2000" brochures between 4 schools in Leesburg. Ms. Pritchard took care of the rest.

Mr. Banks told the Commissioners that the 2000 by 2000 Project is now up to 1,488 trees planted. He also mentioned that the Library had run out of brochures.

Mr. Zoldos asked about the Arbor Day and Flower & Garden Show. Mr. Groothuis said that the Tree Commission would be participating in both this year, however the focus hasn't been decided as of yet. Mr. Hower said that the first meeting for Arbor Day will be in January 2000 and he would be attending.

Mr. Hower went to Blacksburg, VA to look at the street tree plantings, and there are some possibilities suitable for the Town of Leesburg.

Mr. Peterson told the Commission that the National Arboretum in Washington might be very helpful with setting up an Arboretum here in Town.

Mr. Frye thinks that working on the Arboretum is a goal for the Commission in the coming year.

Ms. Pritchard also thinks that the arboretum is something we should pursue this next year. Ms. Pritchard would also like to set up a meeting with Mr. Banks about the upcoming Virginia State Legislature meeting.

Mr. Banks told the Commission that the Revised Zoning Ordinance Draft is in and there is about a month to review and make any changes necessary. Mr. Banks also hopes to have a Power Point presentation ready for their December meeting about the Tree Inventory.

Mr. Groothuis asked that the members of the Flower and Garden Show and the Arbor Day Subcommittee try to get to the Tree Commission meeting next month 15 minutes before the regularly scheduled meeting.

There being no further business the Tree Commission Adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

Susan C. DeJong, Recording Secretary